

Message Text

SECRET

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ORIGIN ACDA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 H-01 INR-10 IO-13
L-03 NSAE-00 OIC-02 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-05 SP-02
SS-15 TRSE-00 DODE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00
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PM:SSTEINER
EUR:LBRECKON(INFO)
INR:RBARAZ(INFO)
S/P:PKAPLAN(INFO)

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O R 222251Z MAR 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO USMISSION USNATO IMMEDIATE
INFO USDEL MBFR VIENNA
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
USNMR SHAPE
USCINCEUR

S E C R E T STATE 074379

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: PARM, NATO, MBFR

SUBJECT: MBFR: NEXT STEPS ON THE NATO INITIATIVE--UK VIEWS

REF: BONN 5113 (DTG 211736Z MAR 78)

1. TONY REEVE (UK EMBASSY) SHARED WITH US ON MARCH 22 UK-
FRG EXCHANGE EARLIER THIS WEEK CONCERNING TIMING OF PRESEN-
TATION OF WESTERN MBFR INITIATIVE. UK FEELS VERY STRONGLY--
AND SO INFORMED FRG--THAT IT WOULD BE SERIOUS MISTAKE NOT
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TO TABLE INITIATIVE BEFORE END OF CURRENT ROUND IN VIENNA.
BRITISH ASKED GERMANS IF THEY SAW ANY REASON FOR FURTHER
DELAY IN TABLING INITIATIVE, NOTING THAT UK SEES NONE. THE
BRITISH SAID THAT THEY UNDERSTAND GERMAN WISH TO AVOID FIRM
COMMITMENT ON TIMING BEFORE DATA EXCHANGE HAS BEEN COMPLETED.
BUT--CONTINUED THE BRITISH--IT WOULD HELP NATO REACH RAPID
DECISION ONCE AIR MANPOWER DATA HAS BEEN TABLED, IF FRG

COULD PROVIDE CLEAR STATEMENT OF THEIR VIEWS ON THIS ISSUE
AT MARCH 23 SPC MEETING. BRITISH CONCLUDED BY STRESSING
WITH GERMANS STRONG HMG HOPE THAT GERMAN REP AT SPC MEETING
WOULD AGREE IN PRINCIPLE THAT NEW INITIATIVE SHOULD BE
TABLED DURING CURRENT ROUND.

2. GERMAN FONOFF REP REPLIED TO THESE POINTS GENERALLY
ALONG LINES REPORTED IN REFTEL. HE MADE CLEAR, HOWEVER,

THAT FINAL GERMAN DECISION WOULD NOT BE READY IN TIME FOR
SPC MEETING.

3. REEVE ASKED THAT US SUPPORT BRITISH APPROACH TO TIMING
DURING SPC MEETING ON MARCH 23. WE TOLD REEVE THAT ISSUE
WAS STILL UNDER REVIEW IN WASHINGTON AND THAT WE WOULD
NOT BE ABLE TO TAKE DEFINITIVE STAND AT MARCH 23 MEETING.
WE ADDED THAT WE HOPE TO BE IN POSITION BEFORE TOO LONG TO
PROVIDE ALLIES WITH OUR VIEWS ON THIS IMPORTANT ISSUE. VANCE

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NNN

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